

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw his rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6, 8-12, 15-17 and 19-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Shenk (U.S. Patent No. 6,553,333 filed May 31, 2001; Provisional Application No. 60/208,655 filed May 31, 2000). This rejection is respectfully rendered moot.

Applicant respectfully submits the enclosed Declaration and associated evidence under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 antedating the Shenk reference. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-6, 8-12, 15-17 and 19-21 under §102(e).

Claims 7 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shenk in view of Brittan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,199,078). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits the enclosed Declaration and associated evidence under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 antedating the Shenk and Brittan references. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of Claims 7 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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